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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At its 3704th meeting, held on 15 October 1996, the Security Council considered the following items:

"Letters dated 23 September and 3 and 11 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/774, S/1996/824 and S/1996/847)

"Letters dated 23 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and 27 September 1996 addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1996/768* and S/1996/800)"

The President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the letters of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea (S/1996/774, S/1996/824 and S/1996/847) and the letters of the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/1996/768* and S/1996/800), regarding the incident of a submarine of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 18 September 1996.

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern over this incident. The Council urges that the Korean Armistice Agreement should be fully observed and that no action should be taken that might increase tension or undermine peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

"The Security Council stresses that the Armistice Agreement shall remain in force until it is replaced by a new peace mechanism.

"The Security Council encourages both sides of the Korean peninsula to settle their outstanding issues by peaceful means through dialogue, so that peace and security on the peninsula will be strengthened."

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